

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 17, 19, 20 and 21 as follows.

1. to 16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering an image comprising a plurality of overlapping graphic objects, said method comprising the steps of:

~~receiving an image representation of the image comprising overlapping graphic objects;~~

generating a list of input edges in accordance with a plurality of boundaries of the plurality of overlapping graphic objects, wherein some of the input edges are overlapping;

producing a list of non-intersecting edges from the list of input edges on a per-scan-line basis; and

rendering the image based on the ~~generated~~ produced list of non-intersecting edges, wherein

the non-intersecting edges form ~~the~~ a plurality of boundaries of a plurality of non-overlapping graphic objects that are visually equivalent to the plurality of overlapping graphic objects; and

at least one ~~of the non-intersecting edges is~~ edge replaces a plurality of overlapping input edges, the non-intersecting edge being shared by more than one ~~of the non-overlapping graphic objects~~ object.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for rendering an image comprising a plurality of overlapping graphic objects, said apparatus comprising:

~~receiving means for receiving an image representation of the image comprising overlapping graphic objects;~~

generating means for generating a list of input edges in accordance with a plurality of boundaries of the plurality of overlapping graphic objects, wherein some of the input edges are overlapping;

producing means for producing a list of non-intersecting edges from the list of input edges on a per-scan-line basis; and

rendering means for rendering the image based on the ~~generated~~ produced list of non-intersecting edges, wherein

the non-intersecting edges form ~~the~~ a plurality of boundaries of a plurality of non-overlapping graphic objects that are visually equivalent to the plurality of overlapping graphic objects; and

at least one ~~of the~~ non-intersecting edges edge replaces a plurality of overlapping input edges, wherein the non-intersecting edge is shared by more than one ~~of the~~ non-overlapping graphic objects object.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program for directing a processor to execute a method for rendering an image comprising a plurality of overlapping graphic objects, said program comprising:

code for receiving an image representation of the image comprising ~~overlapping graphic objects~~;

code for generating a list of input edges in accordance with a plurality of boundaries of the plurality of overlapping graphic objects, wherein some of the input edges are overlapping;

code for producing a list of non-intersecting edges from the list of input edges on a per-scan-line basis; and

code for rendering the image based on the ~~generated~~ produced list of non-intersecting edges, wherein

the non-intersecting edges form ~~the~~ a plurality of boundaries of a plurality of non-overlapping graphic objects that are visually equivalent to the plurality of overlapping graphic objects; and

at least one ~~of the~~ non-intersecting edges edge replaces a plurality of overlapping input edges, wherein the non-intersecting edge is shared by more than one ~~of the~~ non-overlapping ~~objects~~ object.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the producing step comprises the steps of:

maintaining a list of active edges comprising a plurality of input edges that intersect a current scan-line, and

deriving from the active edges a list of corresponding output edges to include the non-intersecting edges.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the deriving step comprises the steps of:

creating a new output edge when an active edge does not have a corresponding output edge; and

terminating the output edge when the output edge does not have a corresponding active edge.